Village Grain Banks for Tribals in Gujarat

4370. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing a Central Scheme called Village Grain Banks for tribals in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds released to the State for the scheme during the last two years, year-wise; and

(d) the number of tribal families benefited in the State therefrom during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) As part of Govt.'s efforts to prevent deaths of children in remote and backward tribal areas due to fall in nutritional standards, a scheme of Village Grain Banks has been launched during 1996-97. The scheme is to be implemented in 369 Blocks of 13 States including Gujarat identified as vulnerable from the point of view of malnutrition/starvation among the tribals. A one time grant towards purchase of grains @ 1 quintal per family, for 100 families of tribals in such areas, storage facilities for the grain and purchase of weights and scales is provided by the Ministry through Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) the channelising agency. The Bank will be managed by the Village Committee elected by the beneficiaries themselves, who as members of the banks can borrow grain from the Grain Banks at times of scarcity.

(c) Rs. 17.92 lakhs was released to Gujarat during 1996-97 for setting up 28 village Grain Banks in the vulnerable areas. No funds have been released for 1997-98.

(d) As a preventive measure, 28 Village Grain Banks set up by the State during 1996-97 will benefit about 2800 tribals families at times of scarcity.

Rehabilitation of Disabled

4371. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far to implement Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce special programme/drive for rehabilitation of the physically handicapped, poor and other disabled persons in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Government his formulating a scheme called National Programme for rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. The Scheme is proposed to be a 100% Centrally Sponsored. To field test the scheme, a Pilot Project for setting up 11 District Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs) and 10 State Institutes for Disability Rehabilitation (SIDRs) in 10 States has been formulated to start providing rehabilitation services to the disabled so far uncovered in the rural and remote areas.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The following measures have been taken for the creation of necessary institutional arrangements and for implementation of the provisions of the Act:

(a) Rules under Section 73(1) and (2) of the Act have been notified.

(b) Central Coordination Committee has been notified vide No. 6-1/96-HW. III dated 21.2.1997 and the first meeting held on 6th November, 1997.

(c) Central Executive Committee has been notified on dated 15/9/97 and the first meeting held on 14th January, 1998.

(d) Five Core Groups of experts and representatives of concerned Ministries were set up to make recommendations and formulate schemes under the Act in the following areas:

(i) Prevention, early detection & intervention;

(ii) Education including pre-school education;

(iii) Barrier-free environment;

(vi) Women & Children with disabilities;

(v) Vocational Training & Employment.

Some of the Core Group have proposed schemes in their reports submitted to this Ministry. Consultations are on with concerned Ministries to concretise the schemes.

(e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (100% funding by Central Government) has been proposed for setting up institutional infrastructure for rehabilitation of disabled in rural and remote areas. To field test the scheme, a Pilot Project for setting up 11 District Rehabilitation Centres and 10 States Institutes for Disability Rehabilitation in 10 States has been formulated.

(f) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been registered on 24.1.1997 with the aim of supporting entrepreneurical efforts of persons with disabilities.

(g) The Government is in the process of finalising 'The National Trust for the Welfare of the Persons with Mental Retardation, Cerebral palsy, Autism & Multiple Disability Bill'.

(h) Chapter XII of the Act deals with the appointments of Chief Commissioner for persons with disabilities for the country and Commissioner for each State, to coordinate, promote and monitor services for persons with disabilities etc. The post of Cheif Commissioner, personal staff and other officers/staff have already been created.

(i) An Inter-Ministerial Group with the representatives from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Education, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Deptt. of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Rural Affairs & Employment, Deptt. Personnel & Training and Planning Commission, to reivew the progress made by these Ministries for implementation of the Act. This Group has undertaken five meetings so far.

(j) All State Governments have been requested to take necessary steps including provision of budgetary allocation for speedy implementation of the provisions of the Act, Union Welfare Minister has taken up the matter with the Chief Ministers of the States and Prime Minister has written to Central Ministers and Chief Ministers of the States in this regard. Model Rules under the Act have also been drawn up and sent to the State Governments for their convenience. Most State Govts. have initiated/taken action on areas concerning these.

(k) A conference of State Secretaries incharge of persons with disabilities was held on 12.2.1997 at New Delhi to discuss the implementation of the Act.

(l) A National Workshop on State Education Secretaries and other experts was held on 29th August' 97 on implementation of Disabilities Act. A workshop with State Labour Secretaries has been jointly organised by Ministry of Labour & Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on 25th & 26th June' 98. A meeting with State Health Secretaries & Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is also on the anvil.

(m) A meeting was held on Open Learning System with the National Open School and other experts to start a process of accredition of the special and integrated schools for disabled children as well as development of suitable curricula.

(n) Through a notification of 27th Oct.' 97, the National Fund for People with Disabilities was amended. The Fund aims at creating services for the disabled for prevention, early detection, education, training, physical and economic rehabilitation. The last meeting of the Fund was held on 30.8.98.

In the meeting of Board of management of the Fund held on 6.1.98, financial assistance was sanctioned for the first time to 6 NGOs and one DRC.

Implementation of Fifteen Point Programme

4372. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes implemented in forty one backward minorities concentrated districts under Fifteen Point Programme;

(b) the progress made in each of the